

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for receiving and transporting electrical energy, comprising:

a storage device formed from a plurality of storage elements; and

a vehicle having a connection for receiving electrical energy from an external source and for transmitting electrical energy from the storage device to an external load, wherein the storage device is arranged as a payload for the vehicle and in the receiving and transmitting of the electrical energy the storage device remains arranged as a payload for the vehicle.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage elements comprise accumulators.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the plurality of storage elements are combined to form storage device groups.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

fixed stations for charging up and discharging the storage device.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the fixed stations comprise:

intermediate storage devices for intermediate storage of the electrical energy.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: at least one electrical collective connection for a plurality of storage elements .

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: at least one opening in each storage element for introducing or draining off a fluid.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising one or more collecting conduits which connect the openings of the storage elements together.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the collecting conduit opens into a container on board the vehicle.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: a device for monitoring individual storage elements.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 11 wherein the monitoring device is configured to indicate an operating condition of at least one of individual storage elements or storage device groups.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the monitoring device is arranged on board the vehicle.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the device includes at least a microprocessor and a memory.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of storing and transporting electrical energy by means of a ~~vehicle~~carrying vehicle carrying an electrical storage device as a payload, comprising the steps of:

receiving electrical energy from a source external to the vehicle;

charging the storage device with the received electrical energy;  
transporting the vehicle to a destination; and  
discharging the storage device at the destination.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

draining a fluid contained in the storage device after charging of the electrical energy into the storage device but prior to transport of the storage device to the destination; and  
introducing a fluid into the storage device after transport of the storage device to the destination but prior to removal of the electrical energy fluid.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising:

cleaning the fluid after removal; and  
storing the cleaned fluid.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 15, wherein transporting the vehicle to a destination comprises removing a container of storage device fluid from the vehicle.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising:

monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles for each storage element; and  
outputting a corresponding notification when a predetermined number of cycles is reached.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage elements comprise capacitors.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

fixed stations for converting the electrical energy.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a device for controlling a charging/discharging operation.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a device for supplying or removing fluid.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a device for controlling the charging/discharging operation and for supplying or removing fluid.

25. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:

means for storing electrical energy received from an external source at a first ~~location;~~ location, wherein the means for storing electrical energy is arranged as a payload for the vehicle; and

means for discharging the stored electrical energy at a second location.